



The Ground Plane

South Bay
Amateur
Radio
Association
ARRL Member Club
Since 1974



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May, 2004

MAY 2004 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Have you looked at the SBARA web page—(<http://www.qsl.net/sbara/>) lately? I did and the first thing I noticed this month was that the main menu topic 'Field Day' was blinking. Evidently, every year it begins to blink two months or so before Field Day telling us that it is time to start preparing. Very cool! One new dimension to 2004 Field Day will be a drawing for a new piece of Ham Equipment. Everyone who attends will be eligible to purchase tickets for the raffle. Mark your calendar for June 25th, 26th & 27th.



For those of you who missed the April meeting, Ernie Anaya, KF6FFE won the Yaesu VX-2R handheld. For me the level of excitement at the meeting has increased and the new format that allows for more socializing has helped. You need to attend and see for yourself. At the May meeting you will have an opportunity to win the first prize of a new ICOM IC 2100H 2Mtr Mobile and/or the second prize of a Garmin eTrex GPS, complete with data cable

The April program presented by Kristen McIntyre, K6WX was a DVD on the DXpedition to VKOIR Heard Island, Outpost at the Edge. Heard Island is an inhospitable and remote island near Antarctica and is one of Earth's most pristine and isolated natural wildernesses. It gave a lot of background on previous expeditions and on the ecology and environment of this isolated spot on earth. The presentation really contributed to the excitement of the April meeting.

Finally, mark your calendar for both July 4th and August 21st & 22nd. On the Fourth of July SBARA will be providing communication support for the Fremont Fourth of July parade. If you are inclined to do so sign-up at the May meeting. In August, SBARA will be supporting the Haywards Zucchini Festival and is our main fundraiser for the year. If you volunteer for a shift you will receive a free chance to win a new \$200 ham rig. Not bad, so sign up for a Zucchini Festival shift at the May SBARA meeting. 73, WT6K AI



*Field Day 2004 Authorized Logo used with permission by the ARRL.

May Program Announcement

The National Traffic System

This month, re-scheduled from April, SBARA will welcome Pink Foster, W6PST, ARRL Section Traffic Manager, Santa Clara Valley section. She will show us the ins and outs of traffic handling in the 21st century.

Come and see why the National Traffic System is still relevant in this age of the internet and computers, how messages are handled, what a message "format" is, NTS's role in disaster recovery, and hear about traffic nets in your area. Maybe you'll want to send some traffic to a friend or relative or deliver some traffic in the local area after this presentation to see how the system works.

SBARA Meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Fremont Community Center at the intersection of Paseo Padre & Mission View Drive.

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VP News

Our monthly raffle continues to be a great success with 149 tickets sold at the April meeting...a record. Our winner's were Ernie Anaya KF6FFE (first place - the Yaesu VX-2R HT), Tony Flusche AB6BR (second place - the Best Of Beasley comic book), Kristen McIntyre K6WX (third place -ARRL Antenna Classics-Book), Bill Artelt WB9YVM (fourth place - an ARRL 5" Membership Decal) and Warren Bennett KA6OST (fifth place - an ARRL 5" Membership Sticker). Congratulations to the lucky winners!

This month will be the most exciting offering to date due to a generous donation to the club. A first prize of an ICOM 2100H 2 Meter mobile transceiver and a second prize of a Garmin Etrex hand held GPS complete with a PC data / 12VDC accessory cable are guaranteed to be raffled off...that's right, 2 big winners are out there already ready to be called! Other prizes may be announced at my discretion when ticket sales are concluded...depending on how vigorous ticket sales are. The minimum May raffle buy in is \$5 for 5 tickets with additional tickets available for \$1 each. Remember, you can't win if you don't participate by buying some tickets. Bring your wallets ladies & gents!

As SBARA President Al Rendon WT6K has indicated, we are planning a big raffle at the annual Field Day dinner. The current plan is not yet finalized but it looks like an ICOM IC-718 desktop HF transceiver with DSP will be the main prize...our most exciting raffle item ever. Look for details in the June issue of the Ground Plane.

Bring a friend to the May meeting and remember, 2 of you are going to be big winner 1.

See the ICOM 2100H specifications at: <http://www.icomamerica.com/amateur/2mmobile/ic2100hmain.as>

See the Garmin Etrex specifications at: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/B00003WGP5/ref=dp_in_ed_1/103-97251085169461v=glance&s=electronics&n=172282&vi=reviews&me=ATVPDKIKXODER

Sam Severs WS6S—SBARA Vice President

May's Raffle Item's



ICOM 2100H 2 Meter Mobile Transceiver



Garmin Etrex Hand Held

DL/K6DF Hamming it up in Germany

By Dennis Franklin K6DF

My wife and I recently made another trip to Germany to visit our daughter who lives in a very small town south of Bitburg near the western border of Germany. We actually went there to see our new grandson, Thomas Wilhelm, who was born 6 weeks prior to our arrival. By the way, much to my daughter and wife's chagrin, I've been telling Thomas that when he says "Dah-Dah" it means the letter "M" not "Daddy"!

Since we were going to be there for at least two weeks, I made arrangements with a ham friend of mine there to operate his station. My friend, Bill Piles DL4VCP only lives 2 kilometers down the road in the next town over from my daughter's house. Bill's station consists of a Yaesu FT-990, a Yagi HF beam, and several HF dipoles.

I operated from Bill's station on two separate days a week apart, April 8th and April 14th on 20 and 40 meter CW bands with excellent results. It did take me a little bit to remember to sign my call as DL/K6DF instead of just K6DF. Several times I rolled into K6DF and had to correct myself. Signals on 20 meters were OK, but 40 meters was the band to operate. There was strong signals one end to the other on 40, almost non-stop. The 40 meter band in Europe is only from 7.0 to 7.1 mc.

Once a clear spot on 40 was found I gave out with a CQ de DL/K6DF. When I finished my CQ I was amazed at the number of stations calling me. It was difficult to pick out one call from the other! Wow! Now I really know how a DX station feels working a pile up!

The biggest shock was all the European stations were S-9 and over . . . something almost unheard of out here on the West Coast of California. It was great fun to copy such clear signals from all the various countries around Germany. U3AZ, a Russian station was 10 over S-9 as was UT2QA from the Ukraine.

It was a real shock to hear a couple of familiar call signs among all those DX stations calling DL/K6DF. I couldn't believe my ears when I heard my good friend Peter G4LHI call me after I finished up a QSO with another friend of mine, Geo GXOIPX. It sure is a small world isn't it? The bands have been so bad lately in CA that I had not worked Peter or Geo for quite some time from my home QTH here in Fremont.

Several of my friends here on the East Coast of the U.S. were going to try a QSO with me while I was there but I heard no U.S. stations during both operating sessions.

A few of the other calls worked by DL/K6DF were, G4SSH Roy (another friend of mine operating club station 2E0000), Gerald OE5GA, GX0000 another U.K. club station, DJ5BR, DJ6IH, MODRK, and many others. All in all I had a wonderful time and wish to thank my host, Bill DL4VCP for allowing me to operate his home station.

I plan to ship an Icom 706 over to my daughter, along with a power supply and wire for a dipole antenna. That way I will have my own station there whenever my wife and I visit. Let's hope the band conditions are better for my next visit so I might be able to have a contact or two with some of my ham friends here in Fremont, CA.

May 2004 Member Profile: Kristen McIntyre K6WX

This month's profile member was born in Queens, New York but at a young age moved to Long Island and grew up near the Nassau Coliseum. Kristen became interested in electronics at the young age of four. She says that she always knew that she would attend MIT and become an engineer. Kristen followed her lifelong dream and attended MIT where she graduated from the department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in 1980.

Kristen's interest in communication came in large part from her father who was a volunteer Auxiliary police officer and while on patrol Kristen would talk to him via CB radio. She built many radio kits with her favorite being a single tube receiver that worked really well. Her interest in amateur radio began in her senior year at MIT when a friend suggested she try 2 meter FM. Needless to say she got bitten by the bug and started studying the code to pass the Technician class license. After getting her license Kristen built a 2-meter repeater that she installed at her home QTH. She included an auto patch and remembers that she would talk to her mother living in New Jersey over the repeater/auto patch while she was walking along the Charles River in Boston.

Amateur radio runs in her family. Kristen has mentored her son Christopher, eleven years old, and he now is licensed as KG6SVI. They talk to each other over local repeaters and on simplex.

Her main interest in amateur radio are operating and in particular, making DX contacts. In June 2003 she set up her K2 and operated as the 20 meter SSB station at the SBARA Field Day. Kristen volunteers as net control on Mondays and Fridays for a morning talk net on 145.230, PL100. In addition to operating she is interested in Antenna design. She has put on a workshop for making high performance 2-meter antennas for use with a handheld. Kristen is interested in Software Defined Radios SDR and has the Field Position of Technical Specialist for the East Bay Section of the ARRL. So, you can call our Kristen if you have RFI problems or just question on any aspect of setting up or operation an amateur radio station.

Away from amateur Kristen works for Sun Microsystems Labs as a Senior Staff Researcher. She has a real interest in fast cars and fast motorcycles. She owns a Dodge Viper sport car and rides a Yamaha R1 motorcycle.

Be sure and introduce yourself to Kristen at the May SBARA meeting. We are all fortunate to have her as friend and resource to our radio association.

73,

Al

WT6K

Our Newest Ham

By Adam Feriante KG6HDR & Kortnee Feriante KG6HDS

Our daughter, Amanda, got seriously interested in HAM radio when her dad mentioned that he would take the entire family to Disneyland if she passed the Technician test before her 8th birthday. To prepare herself for the test, she listened to Gordon West's Technician Theory tapes, studied a Technician theory book, and eventually did the tests over and over again on-line at a couple of different websites. She had extremely limited knowledge in this area and she experienced some difficulty with many issues, especially frequencies. She did gain some knowledge. We had experienced several mysterious phone calls. Our cordless phones would ring and when we would answer it no one would be there. One day Amanda announced that she understood why this was happening and explained that it was radio frequency interference

About a month ago she went in for her first real test with the Silicon Valley VE group in Cupertino. The VEs were really surprised that she was going to take the test. They were kind to her when they told her she didn't pass the test. They were relieved that she didn't burst into tears and run out of the room.

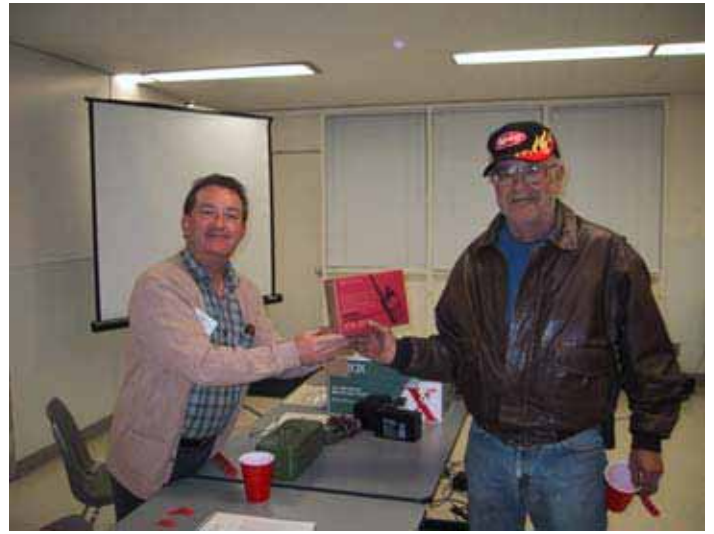
Back to the books! For the next several weeks, Amanda studied daily. Pretty soon things started to make more sense. The night before the test, she slept with her new Yaesu VX-2R under her pillow with the hope that some radio knowledge would percolate up through the pillow and into her brain. Following sound amateur radio practices, her father had locked the transmitter so she could not make any unauthorized radio transmissions.

Amanda passed the Technician exam on Saturday, May 1. The volunteer examiners were really happy for her. They took her picture and posted it at the www.pdarrrl.org website under Ham Links. On the way home, her father turned on a radio and scanned for an active conversation on a repeater. They were able to listen to other HAMs talk about the 7 year-old girl who sat for and passed the Technician exam that morning. Amanda thought that was pretty neat. She returned home, ran through the door and told her 5 year-old brother, "You need to learn to read better so you can take the Technician test."

She patiently spent the next few days waiting to learn of her call sign. The day she found she was now KG6UYW, she got on the air. She will be running Simplex for a while. The world is not ready for her on the repeater just yet.

Amanda's enthusiasm is contagious, her younger brother is looking forward to taking the test himself and getting his own radio. He has his own set of Technician Theory tapes to listen to and is looking forward to following in his sister's footsteps.

Look forward to talking to you on the air Amanda! Bill Artelt—WB9YVM—Newsletter Editor



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The Ground Plane

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